

Aquatic Animal Conservation Issues (3 credits)

Dr. Iske Larkin course coordinator

University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine



Dr. Larkin

I. Course Information for Year 2024

- Number: **VME 6010, VME 4012, VEM 5371**
- Semester: Fall
 - Undergraduate VME 4012: Class 18931 (UF students) and Class 17214 (non-UF students)
 - Graduate VME 6010: Class 18927 (UF students), Class 17040 (non-UF students), Class 21044 (CCAA Certificate)
 - Vet Student VEM 5371- 2 credits: Class 17334, Section AACI (sponsored) and Class 17345, Section AQAN (non-sponsored)

To Access the course, please go to: <http://elearning.ufl.edu/> starting **Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 8:00 am**, select the e-Learning in Canvas button and log in with your Gator link username and password. You should see the following link at the top of the page: **2024-Aq An Conserv Issues – VEM5371/VME4012/VME6010.**

II. General Information

Course director: Dr. Iske Larkin, PhD

Office hours: E-learning web mail; 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM EST, Monday-Friday during the course

Office phone number: (352) 294-4095

Email: IVLarkin@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Course Lecturers:

Don Behringer, Jeff Hill, Mia McGuire, Todd Osborne, Roy Yanong - *UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences;*

Iske Larkin, Patrick Larkin, Ruth Francis-Floyd – *University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine;*

Megan Stolen - *Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute;*

Andrew Stamper - *Disney Animal Programs and Environmental Initiatives;*

Matthew McPherson – *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);*

Amanda Duffus - *Gordon State College;*

Elizabeth Pienaar – *University of Georgia*

Michelle Davis – *Georgia Aquarium - SeaWorld, Orlando;*

Stephen Cassle – *U.S. Army*

Chelsey Crandall, Rebecca Hardman – *Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)*

Robin Bast – *Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW)*

Dan Evans – *Sea Turtle Conservancy*

Michael Moore - *Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*

Prerequisites

At least 2 courses beyond basic Biology I & II (BSC2010 & 2011) in the following scientific fields: physiology (example-PCB4723C), anatomy (example-ZOO3713C), ecology (example-PCB4043C), behavior (example-ZOO3513C), zoology (example-ZOO2203C), or instructor permission.

If you have technical problems with accessing the course web site, you should contact UF computer support:

- e-mail learning-support@ufl.edu
- call (352) 392-4357 (now available 24/7)
- 'e-Learning Tutorial' link to the left within Canvas

*Their regular office hours are as follows: **Monday-Thursday: 7:30am-10:00pm***

Friday: 7:30am-5:00pm

Weekends: 12:00pm-6:00pm

III. Course Description

Course goals/ Educational goals of the course:

1. Identify and discuss controversial issues surrounding the conservation of aquatic animals ranging from invertebrates to marine mammals, with some emphasis on marine mammals, but also including sea turtles, fisheries, and marine ecosystems.
2. Apply critical thinking skills with regards to identifying problems, providing possible solutions and compromises that may help to conserve aquatic animal species and their environment.
3. Cultivate scientific writing skills.

Course organization: The class will focus to a large extent on lectures and a significant amount of reading from book chapters and primary scientific literature on the topic chosen for a given class, and discussion. Students in this class will develop a working knowledge of some of the critical conservation issues facing a variety of aquatic species and will be introduced to both sides of a given problem.

- The MediaSite lectures are taped seminars given by individuals from various institutions, as listed above, who are experts specializing in the topics covered.
- Rather than have exams, students will be expected to review the reading material and the MediaSite lectures, then complete the module quiz and related homework assignments. The quizzes within each module may be taken 2 times before the due date, are open book, and the highest score will count towards your grade.
- Zoom sessions will be provided approximately every other week as an opportunity to ask questions in real time. Extra credit is provided for those attending the live sessions, but it will not be required for students to attend the real-time session. Students will be asked to provide questions through the discussion board in the event that they cannot attend the live Q&A sessions. Questions will be covered

during the sessions, which will be taped, allowing access through a link to be viewed at the student's convenience.

- Homework will include items like a 2-page review and critique of a scientific journal article, 10-slide power point presentation, and literature searches of scientific publications.
- Students will be asked to write an editorial (undergrads) or a pro/con review paper (graduate students) on a controversial topic of their choosing, providing an equally weighted overview of both sides of the controversy. Students will have an opportunity to submit drafts, review and received classmate feedback before the final papers are due.

Grades will be proportioned as indicated in the tables below (V. Evaluation/ Grading/ Testing) and will be based on TA and Professor assessments outlined in provided grading rubrics.

Directions for assignments, lectures and due dates will be provided within each learning module and specific assignment links.

Students should contact the course coordinator or TA by e-mail or within the course discussion board for any questions. You can expect a response within 24-48 hours (usually sooner, except for weekends).

Course Outline & schedule:

Generally, you will see the following schedule each week, but some exceptions may occur:

Quizzes and Homeworks are due on alternating Sundays at 11:59 pm EST within each module. In some cases, there are 2 parts when students respond to classmate posts, then a Thursday due date is included.

Zoom Question & Answer sessions will be held Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:00 pm EST (sessions will be taped and can be viewed asynchronously)

Please note, this schedule is subject to change depending upon lecturer availability. Notices of change will be provided through Announcements within E-learning and updates provided on the syllabus attached within the Syllabus link in E-learning.

Module		Lectures	Quizzes/Assignments	Due dates
Week - 1 (Aug 22 - 25)	Introduction and Overview	Introduction & Natural History and Ecosystems Overview (I. Larkin)	Quiz: Syllabus;	Sun Sep 1 (11:59 pm EST)
Week - 2 (Aug 26 - Sep 1)	Sea Turtles	Natural History and Conservation (Evans)	Quiz 1: Week 1&2	Sun Sep 1 (11:59 pm EST)
Week - 3 (Sep 2- 8)	Fish	Aquatic Ecosystems and Fish (Behringer)	HW 1: Mitigation article search	Part 1 due Thurs Sep 5 (11:59 pm)
				Part 2 due Sun Sep 8 (11:59 pm EST)
Week-4 (Sep 9-15)	Invertebrates	Coral Conservation (Stamper); Sea Urchins (Francis-Floyd)	Q&A 1 session	Post questions Tues Sep 10 (11:59 pm EST)
				Live session Wed Sep 11 (3:00-4:00 pm EST)

			Quiz 2: Week 3&4; Term Paper Part 1	Sun Sep 15 (11:59 pm EST)	
Week-5 (Sep 16-22)	Aquaculture	Disease and Impacts on Conservation (Yanong)	HW 2: power point	Sun Sep 22 (11:59 pm EST)	
Week-6 (Sep 23 – 29)	Attitudes	Human Dimensions in Aquatic Animal Conservation (Crandall)	Q&A 2 session	Post questions Tues Sep 24 (11:59 pm EST)	
				Live session Wed Sep 25 (3:00-4:00 pm EST)	
			Quiz 3: Week 5&6	Sun Sep 29 (11:59 pm EST)	
Week-7 (Sep 30- Oct 6)	Fisheries Interactions	Human Interactions and Marine Mammals (Stolen); Social Science in Fishery Management (McPherson)	HW 3: Sci Article Rev/critique	Due Sun Oct 6 (11:59 pm EST)	
Week-8 (Oct 7-13)	Right Whales & Conservation Economics	Conservation of North Atlantic Right Whales (Moore); Applying Economics to Marine Mammal Conservation (Pienaar)	Q&A 3 session	Post questions Tues Oct 8 (11:59 pm EST)	
				Live session Wed Oct 9 (3:00-4:00 pm EST)	
			Term Paper Part 2 - Draft	Thurs Oct 10 (11:59 pm EST)	
			Quiz 4: Week 7&8; Term Paper Part 2 - Review	Sun Oct 13 (11:59 pm EST)	
Week-9 (Oct 14-20)	Manatees & Florida Springs	Florida Manatee: Biology (Larkin-Calleson); Florida Aquatic Ecosystems (Osborne)	HW 4: Discussion Questions	Part 1 - Thurs Oct 17 (11:59 pm EST)	
				Part 2 - Sun Oct 20 (11:59 pm EST)	
Week-10 (Oct 21-27)	Toxicology	Aquatic Toxicology and Endocrine Disruption (P. Larkin)	Q&A 4 session	Post questions Tues Oct 22 (11:59 pm EST)	
					Live session Wed Oct 23 (3:00-4:00 pm EST)
				Quiz 5: Week 9&10	Sun Oct 27 (11:59 pm EST)
Week-11 (Oct 28-Nov 3)	Military Interactions & Managed Animals	Military Interactions with Marine Mammals (Cassle); Marine Mammals Under Human Care (Davis)	HW 5: Pro/Con power point	Sun Nov 3 (11:59 pm EST)	
Week-12 (Nov 4-10)	Non-native Species	Introduced and Invasive Species (Hill)	Q&A 5 session	Post questions Tues Nov 5 (11:59 pm EST)	

				Live Session Wed Nov 6 (3:00-4:00 pm EST)
			Term Paper Part 3 - Draft	Thurs Nov 7 (11:59 pm EST)
			Quiz 6: Week 11&12; Term Paper Part 3 - Review	Sun Nov 10 (11:59 pm EST)
Week-13 (Nov 11-17)	Ocean Health	Ocean Acidification (Stamper); Plastics in the Ocean (McGuire)	HW 6: Article search & summary	Part 1 due Thurs Nov 14 (11:59 pm); Part 2 due Sun Nov 17 (11:59 pm EST)
Week-14 (Nov 18-24)	Aquatic Birds & Amphibians	Aquatic Bird Health & Conservation (Hardman); Amphibian Declines (Duffus) - Term Papers Due	Term Paper Final	Tuesday Nov 19 (11:59 pm EST)
Week-15 (Nov 25 - Dec 1)		Thanksgiving Break	Quiz 7: Week 13&14	Sun Dec 1 (11:59 pm EST)
Week-16 (Dec 2-8)		Wrap Up & Evaluations	Q&A 6 session	Post questions Tues Dec 3 (11:59 pm EST) Live Session Wed Dec 4 (3:00-4:00 pm EST)

IV. Course Materials

TO ACCESS THE MODULES ON E-LEARNING IN CANVAS, GO TO THE **HOME** LINK.

Reading material will be provided in PDF format through links on the Canvas E-learning site and will include selected current literature from journals and book chapters on relevant topics. Please expect to read a significant amount of material each week, which may be 1 book chapter (~30 pages) and/or 1-2 journal articles (10-15 pages each).

Library Support

Hannah Norton has agreed to provide assistance with accessing the UF library system and conducting literature searches. She can be reached at nortonh@ufl.edu and she has access to the E-Learning class web page. Feel free to contact her if you need assistance with finding articles or scientific papers on specific subjects. So, if you need help finding that 'perfect' paper for an assignment beyond reaching out to the course coordinator and TAs, Hannah is here to help. If the UF library has access to your article of interest, you should not need to pay for an article for your assignments.

E-learning Links and Access

If you are having trouble accessing any of the material, links or lectures in e-learning, please reach out to the course coordinator and TA. If we are not able to assist, please contact UF IT.

Note on assignments

By default, all assignments should be in a MS Office document format (use .doc or .docx for documents, .ppt or .pptx for powerpoint, etc.) Sorry Apple users. You can use iWork, but just save the file as .doc, etc. and prepare for cross compatibility issues. If you do not have MS Office for Windows/Mac or iWork for Mac, there is a [freeware version of such software that is compatible](#). The files created with this software can also be saved as .doc, .ppt, etc. If this is something you would like to do, but need some help you can contact the campus computer support group (e-mail helpdesk@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-4357)

For the most current information on e-learning support, please visit this [e-learning support page](#) before the course begins.

V. Evaluation/ Grading/ Testing: Grades will be based on participation, completion of quizzes, homework assignments (i.e. - critical review of a scientific paper, a power point presentation, discussion board postings etc.). Students will be asked to write and review a term paper. Due dates will be held to strictly.

Feedback

You will find feedback on your assignments in the same site where the homework directions are found, under the Assignments link or you can get to it through the Grades link. Discussion assignments will also be graded and feedback is also under the related links. Grades for the assignments, discussions and quizzes will show under the Grades link.

Feedback on the quiz answers will be provided ~ 1 week after quizzes are due. You can find this under the specific quiz link within the Grades page. E-Learning grades the quizzes automatically. Homework and term paper grades will be based on TA and Professor assessments outlined in provided grading rubrics. Grades should be assessed within 2-3 weeks of the due date.

Grade Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
94 -100	93-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59 -0

For Graduate and Undergraduate students:

90%	Performance & Knowledge of Subject Area	
	Ability to satisfactorily integrate reading material, discussions, and writing assignments as demonstrated	
	25%	Quizzes
	35%	Homework assignments (equally weighted across modules) – includes critical review of a scientific paper, a power point presentation, discussion board postings etc... <i>(Rubric point scales for each assignment are for grading and feedback. Differences in point scales do not reflect differing % to final grade between assignments.)</i>
	30%	Pro/con Term paper & Reviews
10%	Participation	
	Regular Access, Participation in Zoom Q&A sessions Enthusiasm & attitude	

For CE students:

90%	Performance & Knowledge of Subject Area
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	Ability to satisfactorily integrate reading material, discussions, and writing assignments as demonstrated	
	40%	Quizzes
	50%	Homework assignments (equally weighted across modules) – includes critical review of a scientific paper, a power point presentation, discussion board postings etc... <i>(Rubric point scales for each assignment are for grading and feedback. Differences in point scales do not reflect differing % to final grade between assignments.)</i>
10%	Participation	
	Regular Access, Participation in Zoom Q&A sessions Enthusiasm & attitude	

For Veterinary Students:

100%	Performance & Knowledge of Subject Area	
	Ability to satisfactorily integrate reading material, discussions, and writing assignments as demonstrated	
	40%	Quizzes
	60%	Homework assignments (equally weighted across modules) – includes critical review of a scientific paper, a power point presentation, discussion board postings etc... <i>(Rubric point scales for each assignment are for grading and feedback. Differences in point scales do not reflect differing % to final grade between assignments.)</i>

CE students will receive a certificate of completion for grades of a C or better, all other students will receive their calculated letter grade as indicated above.

Note - Homework assignments completed past the due date will automatically be graded **-10% as late**. Points will continue to be removed over time past the due an additional **-10% per day**.

Late quiz submissions will **not** be accepted. You must submit at least one quiz ~10 min before the final due date/time for the system to be able to process and recognize your submission or it will give you a 0.

If there are problems and you find yourself falling behind, contact me as soon as possible. Notifying me after the fact will not add points back that have already been removed. **Please be prepared to provide documentation, such as a doctor's note or other official paperwork with your name and date of event should something come up to prevent you from participating in the class (ex – illness, car accident, death in the family etc.). Conflicts with vacation plans are not sufficient for adjusting due dates.**

All work conducted should be done independently unless specifically indicated in the assignment directions. Any writing should be your own thoughts or a summary of other reading material. **Plagiarism will result in a 0 for the assignment.**

TurnItIn is a plagiarism Checker and will be used within the course. Any assignment with a match of more than 15% will not be accepted. Where TurnItIn is used, you will have access to the report.

- This is a link to a [video on citing sources and avoiding plagiarism](#) (Dr. Martin Simpson, UF) (may need to cut and paste link into browser:
<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/27e154a024d8432aad8baa9d6f50f3d61d>)
- Some [resources through the Health Science Center Libraries](#)
- This is a link to [AMA formatting](#) which is the default citation formatting for this class unless you specify you are using a different format.

Please visit the following link for more information on [grades and grading policies](#).

UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:

- UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, psychological and psychiatric services.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.

Many students experience test anxiety and other stress related problems. "A Self Help Guide for Students" is available through the Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575) and at their [web site](#).

Honesty Policy

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court. For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students who will require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the University of Florida [Disability Resources website](#) for more information. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and student of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

EVALUATIONS - Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on [how to give](#)

[feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#) is available. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [GatorEvals site](#). [Summaries of course evaluation results](#) are available to students.